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D. REGISTRY
B. D. 7038

THE CHINA PRESS, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1936

Arrests Of British Employees Aired

Commons Hears Report On Japanese Action In Manchuria

(*Reuter's Agency*)

LONDON, May 13.—The reported arrest by "Manchukuo" police and Japanese gendarmerie of Chinese subjects employed by British firms and missionary societies in South Manchuria was the subject of questions in the House of Commons today by Mr. A. C. Motting, Conservative member for Preston.

In October and November last, declared the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, in reply, a number of Chinese connected with British interests in South Manchuria were arrested on suspicion of having alleged Communist tendencies.

No British subjects were arrested, but in view of the fact that in effecting the arrests British extra-territorial rights were infringed and general inconvenience was caused to British charitable and commercial institutions in South Manchuria, representations were made to the Japanese Government and the Manchurian authorities.

Afterwards, Mr. Baldwin declared, all but five prisoners were released.

Between April 14 and 17, however, further arrests were made on similar grounds, six of whom were connected with British firms or institutions.

The British Ambassador in Tokyo, Sir Robert Clive, the House was informed, had been instructed to make further representations to the Japanese Government.

N.A.M.

Form No. 3
G-35-1000-1-35

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S. B. REGISTRY

S 2, Special Branch

File No. SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. D. 7038

Date: October 30, 1935

Subject: Translation from the Russian newspaper "Novosty Dnia" of October 30,
..... re wave of arrests in Harbin.

Made by: D. S. Makaroff

Forwarded by: D. S. Boyne

Attached herewith is a translation of an article
entitled the "Wave of arrests in Harbin", which appeared in the
Russian newspaper "Novosty Dnia" of October 30, 1935.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

W.H.G.

THE WAVE OF ARRESTS IN HARBIN

Arrested:- Kabalkin, Marianna Kolosova, Artist Dalevich and many others.

The plundering newspaper "Nash Put" is closed by the authorities.

During the last few days constant rumours are circulating in town regarding happenings in Harbin of rather a serious nature. According to these rumours, which are confirmed from various sources, it is learned that the Manchukuo authorities have closed down the "fascist" paper of Rodzaevsky, the "Nash Put," published in Harbin, and which had a scandalous reputation. Through this paper common blackmail was carried out slightly disguised by the "ideological" mask. At the time of the closure of the paper, the owner of it, Rodzaevsky, was subjected to repression, the nature of which is not yet known. The poetess Marianna Kolosova, widely known for her political work, was also arrested. Mention is also made of the arrest of a well known merchant and factory owner, Kabalkin, who is the assistant chairman of the Exchange Committee and owner of the "Anglo-Chinese Manufacturing Co." The reason for his arrest is not yet known. Last night the local theater circles received a letter from Harbin which states that L. Dalevich, an artist well known in Shanghai, was arrested on October 12, just on eve of his departure to the USSR. Dalevich was accused of a rather serious crime, i.e. espionage for one of the "neighbouring country." No details regarding his arrest are given and no conclusion could be arrived at at present as to what really happened there. Dalevich at present is kept in the Harbin prison.

See L 5835

S.C.S.

FM. 2
G. 40M-9-9.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 7038
Section 2, Special Branch 30 Station, 35
REPORT
Date 29th October 1935.

Subject Arrests in Mukden and Harbin.

Made by

Forwarded by D. S. J. Coyne

On Oct. 22, 1935 there arrived in Shanghai from Harbin a Mr. Ho Chun who was until recently employed in the Accounts Department of the National City Bank of New York, Harbin Branch. When interviewed by the undersigned on October 25, Mr. Ho stated that he had been transferred to the Shanghai office of the Bank at his own request, as he feared to remain in Harbin after an experience which befell him at the end of August, 1935.

Questioned regarding this experience Mr. Ho related how, on the morning of Aug. 28, a Japanese and two Chinese detectives called at the Bank and stated that he was wanted at Police Headquarters. In spite of the remonstrances of the Manager of the Bank he was taken away and lodged in a cell at the Police Station, where he remained for three days. During this period he was not interrogated, nor was any reason given for his detention. After his release he learned that approximately 5,000 persons had been taken into custody, the reason being, according to an official statement made some time later - that all suspected reactionaries would be placed under preventative detention during the visit of Emperor Pu Yih to Harbin.

Continuing, Mr. Ho related how, during the past two months, the arrest of employees of Foreign establishment had been a daily occurrence, the arrests in many cases being effected on the premises of firms enjoying Consular protection. In the earlier cases protests were lodged by the Consuls of the nationals concerned, but as it was found that in such instances the arrested persons were kept in custody longer than usual, it was found expedient to make no protest, but await the release of the arrested person. The Japanese Authorities, with whom the protests were lodged, usually denied having

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

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Subject

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any knowledge of the arrests and referred the matter to the Municipal Authorities. The general opinion held by the Foreign Community was that these arrests were made purely for the purpose of embarrassing the firms whose employees were arrested. It was worthy of note that of the Chinese arrested, the majority were persons who had been sent by their firms to Harbin from China Proper. In one instance the Chinese Manager of an American owned flour mill, hearing that he was about to be arrested, took refuge at the American Consulate. When the Police applied to the Consul to hand the man over, their request was refused. The Police therefore arrested the Assistant Manager of the mill and kept him in custody for several days.

Chinese of the Professional class who have gone to Manchuria to follow their calling are of the opinion that these mass arrests are being carried out for the purpose of making them return to China. Many of those employed in Administration and Railway Offices have been forced to resign and have been replaced by Japanese.

The establishment of a State Monopoly in various commodities will, according to Mr. Ho, undoubtedly lead to the withdrawal of Foreign firms, and eventually, Foreign banks, from Manchuria.

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J. boyne

D. S. I.

file

J. M.

29 OCT 1935

Copies to A.D. 7 & H.

Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch.

J. boyne

SENSATIONAL MUKDEN ARRESTS

Employees of British Concerns Taken Into Custody: Huge Building Programme

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Mukden, Oct. 16.

Beginning on October 11 there occurred a series of arrests which has caused a brief sensation in Mukden. Those involved include; a foreign-educated doctor in the old city; a Chinese Christian pastor, prominent in Y.M.C.A. work; Chinese employees of the Chi Tung Tobacco Co., Manchurian subsidiary of the B.A.T. Co.; five doctors, two male nurses and one technician from the Mukden Hospital, Missionary medical centre whose great work for the people of this district has long been recognized as an outstanding example of British missionary effort; the assistant compradore of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation; teachers in the middle school, maintained by British missions; two Chinese from the British Cigarette Company's Mukden factory; pupils from a mission school for girls, and the steward from the International Golf Club. A very mixed bag was the first comment heard on Saturday.

But it seemed perplexing that the Chinese taken were all connected with British firms and organizations nor was the explanation that British interests greatly outnumbered those of other nationalities found acceptable. In some instances permission was sought by the police for the entering of British property but at least two instances are reported where flagrant violation of private rights were apparently committed. A foreign bachelors' mess on premises long owned by a British concern were entered and searched, and very late on the night of Sunday, October 13, the police are reported to have forced their way into British premises and there arrested a girl student in the mission school. Enquiries at H. M. Consulate-General indicated that no permission had been sought for this entrance into British property.

No Official Statement

Official statements as to the cause of these raids are not available and Japanese authorities when questioned professed entire ignorance of the matter, but Japanese in the employ of the Manchoukuo police are understood to have stated, to interested foreign authorities, that the gendarmes were in charge of the whole affair and would not permit any information to be given out. Brief paragraphs appeared in the local vernacular press but beyond indicating that police activities in connection with a "Certain serious affair" had caused a local sensation no information was given. In the absence of precise information rumours galore circulated throughout the town. A gigantic Communist plot was seen, but it was difficult to visualize some of the well-to-do local residents involved in the arrests as wholehearted exponents of Communistic principles.

For sometime an undefined relation to British interests seemed the only feature which the different arrests possessed in common. Then it was suggested that membership in, or at least a contribution to, the Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A. seemed a link between the various persons affected. It was rumoured that many more arrests were taking place, and it was known that the police were working from a list which apparently they believed named persons connected with subversive activities, against the Manchoukuo Government. Rumour named 400 arrests and accounts of activities in Harbin began to be confused with reports in Mukden.

Another suggestion was that the police had found on the person some Chinese traveller from the south a mailing list which had been prepared by an industrious source of anti-Manchoukuo propaganda safely located in the South. The Chi Tung Tobacco Co. suffered no little inconvenience because of the sudden removal of so many of the senior employees in their accounting department. H.M. Consulate-General made every effort to minimize the inconvenience which must be felt by British concerns because of long absence of important members of their staffs, as well as endeavouring to insure that the property rights of British Subjects were respected.

Reg.
Please file
carefully. J.W.

28 OCT. 1935

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MANY ARRESTS IN HARBIN

Elements Subversive to Government

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Harbin, Oct. 9.

According to the local Russian press, about 120 persons were arrested yesterday, these including the editor of the "Novosti Vostoka," the Soviet daily newspaper. Besides the editor, other leading members of the staff were arrested, thus making it impossible for the paper to appear this morning. The Russian press in commenting on the arrests, states that it is necessary for the peace and order of the city that all injurious elements should be removed and that such a "clean-up" will be for the good of the entire population. They are accused of being connected with anti-Government elements, and also have the support of a certain neighbouring country. Rumours go the length of stating that Russian emigrants will be forbidden to reside in Manchoukuo. It is easily seen to what an extent these rumours are false. Their absurdity is proved by the Russian emigrants themselves, who residing in Manchoukuo, have the rights of citizenship and the authorities far from persecuting in any way, on the contrary, give them every facility.

The Russian in Manchoukuo has rights as the Russian residing in Shanghai never dreamed of. The government of Manchoukuo has built up its state policy on high principles of justice, never in any way persecuting its loyal citizens, no matter what their nationality.

On the other hand, ensuring peace and order, the Government is taking measures to sift out harmful elements from Manchoukuo. The Government firmly has resolved to remove from its country all persons who are inclined to be hostile to the principles which are the basis of policy of Manchoukuo. The recent arrests were for the purpose of removing such elements.

S2,
Please comment on
political significance of
these happenings. J.H.

22 OCT. 1935